

SENATE BILL 781

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SB 407/99 - JPR

2000 Regular Session  
0lr1111  
CF 0lr1779

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By: **Senators Kelley, Forehand, Hughes, Pinsky, Lawlah, Frosh, Sfikas,  
Roesser, Teitelbaum, and Mitchell**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2000

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Domestic Violence - Temporary Ex Parte Order - Additional Relief**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing a court in an ex parte proceeding for relief from abuse  
4 to order the respondent to surrender certain firearms under certain  
5 circumstances; authorizing a court in certain domestic violence proceedings to  
6 order a respondent to refrain from possessing certain firearms under certain  
7 circumstances; requiring a law enforcement officer to provide certain  
8 information to a respondent when a firearm is surrendered and to provide for  
9 the safe storage of the firearm; providing for the retaking of surrendered  
10 firearms by the owner under certain circumstances; providing certain penalties  
11 for certain violations; and generally relating to temporary ex parte orders for  
12 protection from domestic violence.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
14 Article - Family Law  
15 Section 4-505(a), 4-509, and 4-511  
16 Annotated Code of Maryland  
17 (1999 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

18 BY adding to  
19 Article - Family Law  
20 Section 4-505(d)  
21 Annotated Code of Maryland  
22 (1999 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

23 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
24 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

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**Article - Family Law**

2 4-505.

3 (a) (1) If a petition is filed under this subtitle and the court finds that there  
4 are reasonable grounds to believe that a person eligible for relief has been abused, the  
5 court, in an ex parte proceeding, may enter a temporary order to protect any person  
6 eligible for relief from abuse.

7 (2) The temporary ex parte order may order any or all of the following  
8 relief:

9 (i) order the respondent to refrain from further abuse or threats of  
10 abuse of a person eligible for relief;

11 (ii) order the respondent to refrain from contacting, attempting to  
12 contact, or harassing any person eligible for relief;

13 (iii) order the respondent to refrain from entering the residence of a  
14 person eligible for relief;

15 (iv) where the person eligible for relief and the respondent are  
16 residing together at the time of the alleged abuse, order the respondent to vacate the  
17 home immediately and award temporary use and possession of the home to the person  
18 eligible for relief or in the case of alleged abuse of a child or alleged abuse of a  
19 vulnerable adult, award temporary use and possession of the home to an adult living  
20 in the home, provided that the court may not grant an order to vacate and award  
21 temporary use and possession of the home to a nonspouse person eligible for relief  
22 unless the name of the person eligible for relief appears on the lease or deed to the  
23 home or the person eligible for relief has resided in the home with the respondent for  
24 a period of at least 90 days within 1 year before the filing of the petition;

25 (V) IF THE COURT MAKES A FINDING ON THE RECORD THAT THERE  
26 ARE REASONABLE GROUNDS TO BELIEVE THAT A PARTICULAR FIREARM OR  
27 PARTICULAR FIREARMS IN THE POSSESSION OF THE RESPONDENT MAY HAVE BEEN  
28 USED OR ARE LIKELY TO BE USED IN AN INCIDENT OF ABUSE AGAINST A PERSON  
29 ELIGIBLE FOR RELIEF:

30 1. ORDER THE RESPONDENT TO SURRENDER TO LAW  
31 ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES THE PARTICULAR FIREARM OR PARTICULAR  
32 FIREARMS; OR

33 2. ORDER THE RESPONDENT TO REFRAIN FROM  
34 POSSESSING ANY FIREARMS FOR THE DURATION OF THE EX PARTE ORDER;

35 [(v)] (VI) order the respondent to remain away from the place of  
36 employment, school, or temporary residence of a person eligible for relief or home of  
37 other family members;

1 [(vi)] (VII) order the respondent to remain away from a child care  
2 provider of a person eligible for relief while a child of the person is in the care of the  
3 child care provider; and

4 [(vii)] (VIII) award temporary custody of a minor child of the person  
5 eligible for relief and the respondent.

6 (D) (1) IF A RESPONDENT SURRENDERS A FIREARM UNDER THIS SECTION,  
7 THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER SHALL:

8 (I) PROVIDE TO THE OWNER OF THE FIREARM INFORMATION ON  
9 THE PROCESS FOR RETAKING POSSESSION OF THE FIREARM; AND

10 (II) PROVIDE FOR THE SAFE STORAGE OF THE FIREARM DURING  
11 THE PENDENCY OF ANY PROCEEDING RELATED TO THE ALLEGED DOMESTIC  
12 VIOLENCE.

13 (2) THE OWNER OF THE FIREARM MAY RETAKE POSSESSION OF THE  
14 FIREARM AT THE TERMINATION OF THE EX PARTE ORDER UNLESS:

15 (I) ORDERED TO SURRENDER A FIREARM IN A PROTECTIVE ORDER  
16 ISSUED UNDER § 4-506 OF THIS SUBTITLE; OR

17 (II) THE OWNER IS NOT OTHERWISE LEGALLY ENTITLED TO OWN  
18 OR POSSESS A FIREARM.

19 4-509.

20 (a) A person who fails to comply with the relief granted in an ex parte order  
21 under § 4-505(a)(2)(i), (ii), (iii), (iv), [or] (v), OR (VI) of this subtitle or in a protective  
22 order under § 4-506(d)(1), (2), (3), (4), or (5) of this subtitle is guilty of a misdemeanor  
23 and on conviction is subject, for each offense, to:

24 (1) for a first offense, a fine not exceeding \$1,000 or imprisonment not  
25 exceeding 90 days or both; and

26 (2) for a second or subsequent offense, a fine not exceeding \$2,500 or  
27 imprisonment not exceeding 1 year or both.

28 (b) An officer shall arrest with or without a warrant and take into custody a  
29 person whom the officer has probable cause to believe is in violation of an ex parte  
30 order or protective order in effect at the time of the violation.

31 4-511.

32 (a) When responding to the scene of an alleged act of domestic violence, as  
33 described in this subtitle, a law enforcement officer may remove a firearm from the  
34 scene if:

35 (1) the law enforcement officer has probable cause to believe that an act  
36 of domestic violence has occurred; and

1           (2)     the law enforcement officer has observed the firearm on the scene  
2 during the response.

3           (b)     If a firearm is removed from the scene under subsection (a) of this section,  
4 OR IS SURRENDERED UNDER § 4-505 OF THIS SUBTITLE, the law enforcement officer  
5 shall:

6           (1)     provide to the owner of the firearm information on the process for  
7 retaking possession of the firearm; and

8           (2)     provide for the safe storage of the firearm during the pendency of any  
9 proceeding related to the alleged act of domestic violence.

10          (c)     At the conclusion of a proceeding on the alleged act of domestic violence,  
11 the owner of the firearm may retake possession of the firearm unless ordered to  
12 surrender the firearm under § 4-506 of this subtitle.

13          SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
14 October 1, 2000.